

Youth Pastor **United Methodist Church of Libertyville** (August 2015)

United Methodist Church of Libertyville, a large, dynamic congregation in the northern suburbs of Chicago with a strong youth program, seeks a youth minister who has a heart for connecting with junior and senior high students, the creativity to provide experiences for them to grow in God's grace and wisdom, and the desire to send them out into the world equipped to make an impact for Christ and his kingdom. Training and experience in youth ministry preferred.

Hours: 25-30 / week

Compensation: \$20,000 / year + great house & utilities

Send cover letter, resumes and questions to pastorscwilliams@umcl.org.

Youth Pastor Job Description

Overall Vision and Goal of this Position

The Youth Pastor is the primary leader of our Middle School and Senior High Youth Ministry. Our desire is to foster a positive environment for spiritual formation in the impressionable and formative years of each participant. We want to create a nurturing faith community of youth that will reach out to other youth and serve Christ in the world. We want students to know that they are loved and cared for by our faith community. We hope each young person will develop a positive understanding of who God is and a deeper appreciation for the love of Jesus Christ through considering his life, teaching, and example. We hope that their participation in youth group will foster a life-long relationship with the Church and a deep understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

The Youth Pastor will help teach students the importance of worship, instruction, fellowship and service. We want students to know that they are made in the image of our Creator, and as such, are children of God and are valuable. As a congregation, we seek to show love and respect to our students, so that we may be able to be a part of their lives and walk alongside them as they mature in their faith.

The Youth Pastor is in team ministry with the other pastors. Appropriate sharing of information is expected. Strict confidentiality is also required with the sensitive information that is handled in team ministry. This position involves collaboration with the pastoral team, who are expected to give oversight and guidance. The Youth Pastor is seen as an important and trusted colleague.

Essential Functions of the Position

Instruction

- Organize and plan the weekly youth group meetings. This will be a time of fun, fellowship, and learning. The Youth Pastor will address issues that have relevance to the lives of youth.
- Develop appropriate small groups where students will feel more comfortable discussing and questioning their faith.
- Participate regularly and meaningfully in the Church's Sunday School Program for Youth

Fellowship

- Hold regular fun outside activities that will encourage students to get to know one another and grow in their friendships.
- Attend denominational youth events when appropriate such as the Outdoor Retreat Ministries' winter Ski Trip.
- Plan and attend national United Methodist and/or other summer youth conventions and events when feasible.
- Plan and devise effective strategies for recruiting new participants.

Service

- Plan and run mission and service opportunities throughout the year.
- Organize a summer mission trip where students will be able to experience another culture while building friendships, serving others and being stretched in their personal faith.

Confirmation

- Organize and plan the confirmation program in collaboration with the senior pastors. This will include planning parent meetings and field trips.
- Organize and plan the beginning Confirmation Retreat. This will be a team building experience to bring the confirmands closer together.
- The Youth Pastor will plan and collaborate with the senior pastors and other staff/volunteers in teaching the weekly confirmation class. This involvement will help ease the transition from Middle School to Sr. UMYF and help build strong relationships as youth transition into Senior High.

Administration

- Communicate regularly with youth and parents giving them necessary information regarding the program and events
- Communicate with the congregation about the Youth Ministry Program
- Recruit volunteers for events and programs when needed
- Attend Administrative Board Meetings.
- Oversee and administer funds related to this program ministry. Hold fundraisers to support the summer mission trip and other youth events.
- Lead and collaborate with the Youth Council and Director of Children/Family Ministries
- Manage Facebook Page and Contribute Youth Content to the website

Core Competencies of the Position

(1) Interpersonal Skills

- Able to effectively communicate and foster open communications with youth in grades 8-12.
- Maturity to handle discussions and conversations of a sensitive and sometimes personal nature regarding the maturing of the youth group.
- Energy, enthusiasm, and intellectual capacity to foster a sense of "wanting" to participate among the youth involved in the programs.
- Challenges participants to think intellectually and develop a stronger sense of spiritual growth and religious understanding.
- Effectively communicates plans and intentions to senior pastors regarding programs and needs.
- High level of organizational skills resulting in events, meetings, lessons, etc. that are well planned, well communicated, and positively implemented.
- Flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances such as attendance numbers, schedules, support availability, and facility availability.

(2) Team Building Skills

- Ability to lead small discussion groups centered on religious and present day social topics that promote open and challenging dialogue.
- Effective listener who fosters a feeling of mutual respect among other members of organization
- Positive attitude that exhibits a sense of accomplishment within the team.
- Organizational skills that enable collaboration while remaining focused on a mission and purpose for all meetings and projects.
- Understands how to effectively delegate tasks to part time staff, monitor achievement, and provide positive and constructive feedback.

(3) Management Skills

- Creates an atmosphere of mutual respect and cooperation
- Communicates clearly and in a timely fashion to parents and youth regarding ministry plans, needs and opportunities.
- Frequently communicates progress on projects and provides constructive feedback on processes and policies to senior pastors.
- Seen as a trusted provider of advice and insight to senior pastors regarding the overall ministry of the church and all things related to youth and young adults.
- Sets example as the "go to" representative of the congregation regarding youth spiritual development issues.